

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 3-4, 8-13, 17-18 and 22-27 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 3-4 and 8-9 have been allowed. Claim 10 (and its dependents) has been amended to depend from allowable claim 8. Claims 13, 17, 18 and 22-27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Office Action held that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 13, 17, 22 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 18 and 23 depend from now (allowable) independent claims 17 and 22, respectively. Claims 25-27 depend from now (allowable) claim 24.

Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 14-16 and 19-21 have been canceled. The various rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 are therefore deemed moot.

KUBOSHIMA et al.
Application No. 10/676,259
August 30, 2006

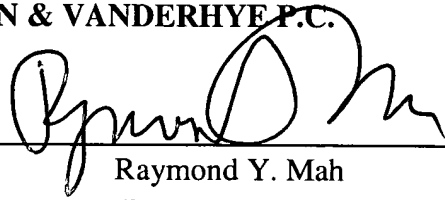
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Y. Mah', is written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100